

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN AF-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 270949

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT KHARTOUM 2758 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO DAKAR
DATED 10 DECEMBER 1974:

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2758

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR SU PINR

SUBJ: PROPOSED MEETING WITH SADIQ EL MAHDI

REF: DAKAR 6736

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, SADIQ EL MAHDI AND HIS REMAIN-
ING PARTISANS HERE HAVE PERIODICALLY SOUGHT CONTACTS WITH THIS
EMBASSY PRESUMABLY IN EFFORT FAN THEIR FADING POLITICAL FORTUNES.
NIMEIRI REGIME REMAINS CRITICAL AND SUSPICIOUS OF SADIQ AND HIS
UMMA PARTY ACTIVITIES, THOUGH HE WAS RELEASED FROM FORCED
RESIDENCE AND ALLOWED LEAVE COUNTRY SOME TIME AGO. AS RECENTLY
AS HIS MONTHLY "REPORT TO NATION" ON DEC 9, NIMEIRI ALLUDED
TO ALLEGED "AGREEMENT" REPORTED IN LEBANESE PRESS BETWEEN
DISSOLVED SUDANESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND "SO-CALLED PROGRESSIVE
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WING OF UMMA PARTY TO FOIL PRESENT REGIME AND HAND AUTHORITY TO

SO-CALLED LEADER OF PROGRESSIVE WING OF UMMA ON CONDITION THAT COMMUNISTS BE ALLOWED OPERATE PUBLICLY". IRRESPECTIVE OF TRUTH OF THIS CHARGE, REFERENCE TO "SO-CALLED LEADER" IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO MEAN SADIQ AND HAS BEEN SO INTERPRETED HERE.

2. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING FOR USG, RATHER THAN SADIQ, FOR HIM TO MEET OFFICIALLY OR SOCIALLY WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS DURING ANNUAL HAJ. MANY SUDANESE PILGRIMS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING SEVERAL MEMBERS CABINET AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS, WILL BE MAKING HAJ AND SADIQ/USG CONTACT COULD BECOME KNOWN. IN EVENT QUESTION IS RAISED AGAIN IN DAKAR, WE ACCORDINGLY RECOMMEND FADIL EL MAHDI BE GIVEN NO ENCOURAGEMENT THAT SADIQ WOULD BE RECEIVED BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN JIDDA. BREWER UNQTE INGERSOLL

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